

Applicant : Murakami et al.
Serial No. : 09/348,852
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Attorney's Docket No.: 16709-004001 / F706US

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are now in the application, with claims 1, 8, 15, 21, 27, and 29 being independent. Claims 1-14 and 27-30 have been canceled without prejudice. No new matter has been added. Claims 15-26 have been indicated as allowed and the Applicants thank the Examiner therefore.

Claims 1-14 and 27-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,812,070 to Tagami et al., in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,240,365 to Bunn, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,726,885 to Klein et al., and in further view of Official Notice. These contentions are traversed, and allowance of this application is requested in view of the present remarks and amendments. The rejection of claims 1-14 and 27-30 has been obviated by the cancellation of these claims.

It is respectfully suggested that for all of these reasons, all of the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. As such, the Applicants respectfully request a formal notice of allowance.

The Applicants believe that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that issue or comment. Because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.


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No fees are believed due. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/09/2004


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